

Corner: UNEP/ SETAC Life Cycle Initiative

Int J LCA and the Initiative collaborate to enhance global capacity of LCA and LCM

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Special Int J LCA Subscription Rates for Life Cycle Initiative working group members from OECD and non-OECD countries

I would like to thank the editors of the Int J LCA for the offer to allow Life Cycle Initiative working group members from developing and industrial countries to obtain the journal at a reduced fee, as announced in the editorial by Jacqueline Aloisi de Lardere and James Fava, Int J LCA 8 (3) 117 (2003). This offer – which is differentiated according to OECD and non-OECD countries – is consistent with the Initiative's objective to promote and build capacity for the global use of life cycle approaches and is in line with the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg that states: "All countries should take action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development needs and capabilities of developing countries through mobilisation, from all sources, of financial and technical assistance and capacity building for developing countries."

Int J LCA offers two different special-subscription rates to the Life Cycle Initiative working group members (in personal capacity only): **50% discount** for members from **OECD countries** and **75% discount** for members from **non-OECD countries** (see the subscription form on the front inside cover). The procedure to order Int J LCA at these rates is as follows:

- You can apply for working group membership in the Life Cycle Initiative by filling in the expression of interest form that can be downloaded from the Initiative's website: www.uneptie.org/sustain/lcinitiative. Accepted members will be informed by the secretariat.
- UNEP will forward the list of accepted working group members to Int J LCA.
- The Life Cycle Initiative member who wants to order Int J LCA to the reduced fee fills in the special order form available at the journal's website (<http://www.scientificjournals.com/sj/lca/unepSetac/>) and also on the front inside cover of each edition of the printed journal. This offer also includes back volumes and issues.
- Int J LCA verifies the membership status and processes the subscription.

1st Announcement

International Conference and Workshops on Environmental Product Information Stockholm/ Sweden, 29–30 September

This event arranged by the Nordic Council of Ministers, the Swedish Industry Association (SINF) and the Global Type III Environmental Product Declarations Network (GEDnet), together with UNEP and the Life Cycle Initiative, will focus on the current status of Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) and the development in relation to international trends in the Nordic countries.

The focus of the conference is to influence the next generation of products with improved environmental performance and improved information and knowledge for products. The conference is of special interest 1. to those who manufacture, develop or prepare products, 2. to canvassers working for the public sector or larger organizations. The conference is also an opportunity for the regulatory authorities to meet managers of organisations and companies and to discuss how to generate awareness of environmental declarations and environmental product development as contributions to sustainable development and national environmental objectives.

Different systems and programs for declarations have been launched in various countries around the world such as Canada, Japan and Korea. The Nordic countries and industries have been in the forefront of the development of EPD programmes and would like to share their experiences.

Six workshops will be organised on different topics such as synergies with environmental management systems, needs for simplifying LCA, how to generate awareness, the role of SMEs, effective third party verification process and strengthening international co-operation. These workshops are contributions to the up-coming task force on 'Communication of Life Cycle Information' under the Life Cycle Initiative's LCM programme.

Further information and online-reservation facilities are available at the conference [website www.sinf-mk.se/stockholm](http://www.sinf-mk.se/stockholm).

2nd Announcement

International Workshop on Quality of LCI Data Karlsruhe/ Germany, 20–21 October

This workshop under the auspices of the Life Cycle Initiative is co-organised with the Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe (FZK)/ Germany; University of Stuttgart, IKP/ Germany; German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF); European Commission – Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC), Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It aims at pushing forward the discussion and common sense on LCI quality criteria, its measurement, documentation, communication and application in decision support in LCA practice.

The different nature and level of LCI uncertainty information results in a challenging task to provide adequate information on data quality. The rising demand of high quality LCI data in various application fields lead to numerous approaches to address data quality, representativity and appropriateness. Decision makers and decision supporters are therefore faced with a multitude of quality criteria and measures which complicates the selection of LCI data and interpretation of the reliability of LCA results.

With the aim to contribute to a guiding document for a structured quality measurement, documentation and application, LCA practitioners in industry, academia and consulting, LCI data providers and government agencies are invited to discuss contentious issues within three working groups:

- Quality Criteria and Measurement
- Documentation and Communication of Quality Information
- Application of Data Quality Information in Decision Making

Registration facilities and additional information are now available online: www.lci-network.de/lci-quality

UNEP/ SETAC Partners. UNEP/ SETAC partners in the Life Cycle Initiative are AIST (National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology), Japan, Alliance for Beverage Cartons and the Environment (ACE), International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), General Motors, Government of the Netherlands, Government of Switzerland and the CIRAIQ/ Government of Quebec.